

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 34-42 are now presented for consideration in lieu of claims 21-24, 26-28, 31 and 33, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 21-24, 26, 27, 31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,864,130 to Kahn et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,303,398 to Goerigk. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kahn et al. patent in view of the Goerigk patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,770 to Kucharczyk. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 21-24 and 26-28, 31 and 33. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that claims 34-42, for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 34 recites an apparatus for manufacturing a device using a substrate. The apparatus includes a container configured to contain the substrate, a process station configured to perform a process for the substrate, a transfer robot having a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving unit for driving

the holding member, and configured to perform a transfer process that includes extracting the substrate out of the container and transferring the extracted substrate to the process station, and a reader configured to optically read a code, of which information is to be used for manufacturing the device, formed on the substrate, in the transfer process performed by the transfer robot, at least a portion of the reader being located on at least one of the holding member and the driving unit.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 41 recites a method of manufacturing a device. The method includes steps of performing a transfer process that includes extracting a substrate out of a container and transferring the extracted substrate to a process station for performing a process for the substrate, using a transfer robot having a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving unit for driving the holding member, optically reading a code, of which information is to be used for manufacturing the device, formed on the substrate using a reader, in the transfer process performed in the performing step, at least a portion of the reader being located on at least one of the holding member and the driving unit, and performing the process for the substrate, on which the code has been read in the reading step, at the process station.

In a further aspect of the present invention, independent claim 42 recites an exposure apparatus for performing exposure of a first substrate to a pattern from a second substrate. The apparatus includes a container configured to contain an object, the object being one of the first and second substrates, a process station configured to perform a process for the object, a transfer robot having a holding member for holding the object and a driving unit for driving the holding

member, and configured to perform a transfer process that includes extracting the object out of the container and transferring the extracted object to the process station, a reader configured to optically read a code, of which information is to be used for the exposure, formed on the object, in the transfer process performed by the transfer robot, at least a portion of the reader being located on at least one of the holding member and the driving unit.

Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 34, 41 and 42.

The Examiner relies on the Kahn et al. patent for showing an apparatus for semiconductor wafer identification. The Examiner takes the position that the wafer presentation device 12 in the Kahn et al. patent corresponds to a holding member of the present invention. Applicant submits, however, that the wafer presentation device 12 in the Kahn et al. patent is not driven so as to extract a substrate out of a container and to transfer the extracted substrate to a process station, in the manner of the present invention recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Kahn et al. patent does not teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in those claims.

Applicant further submits that the remaining art cited fails to cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Kahn et al. patent.

The Examiner relies on the Goergigk patent for teaching a method and a system of managing wafers in a semiconductor device production facility. Applicant submits, however,

that this patent merely teaches a system in which a bar code contains information about different processes for a semiconductor wafer.

The Examiner relies on the Kucharczyk patent for teaching a bi-directional bar code scanning system. Applicant submits, however, that this patent merely teaches that a code can be formed in a transparent substrate.

Applicant submits that neither the Goerigk patent nor the Kucharczyk patent teaches or suggests salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 34, 41 and 42, which have been discussed above. Namely, Applicant submits that those patents are silent with respect to driving a holding member so as to extract a substrate out of a container and to transfer the extracted substrate to a process station. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Goerigk and Kucharczyk patents add nothing to the teachings of the Kahn et al. patent that would render obvious Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 34, 41 and 42.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 34, 41 and 42, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 35-40 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 34. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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